

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 NEA-10 /063 W
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R 181005Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8631

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 3638

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESCAP:OCON;ITU

SUBJECT: ESCAP:INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING PARTY OF EXPERTS ON
CONSTITUTION OF ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY, FEB 17-23,
BANGKOK

REF: STATE 35890 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: FIRST TWO DAYS SUBJECT MEETING DEVOTED TO
CONSIDERATION PREAMBLE AND ARTICLES I THROUGH III. AT BEGINNING,
MORE THAN ONE HOUR DEVOTED JUST TO FIRST THREE LINES OF PRE-
AMBLE ALONE. ENTIRE MEETING SECOND DAY DEVOTED TO KEY ARTICLE
III ON MEMBERSHIP. GIST OF REFTEL PASSED TO UK DELEGATION.
END SUMMARY.

2. LONG STANDING DISPUTE BETWEEN UK/HONG KONG AND SOUTH
ASIANS ON ARTICLE III ENDED BEFORE DEBATE REALLY BEGAN. ESCAP
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION CHIEF HUSAIN OPENED
DISCUSSION THIS ARTICLE BY READING FOLLOWING STATEMENT:
BEGIN TEXT: AT MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE ITU, REPRESENTATIVE OF PRC EMBASSY CONVEYED
HIS GOV'TS VIEWS THAT HONG KONG'S MEMBERSHIP OF ASIA-
PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO HIS
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GOVERNMENT NOR WOULD THEY ACCEPT ANY PROPOSAL FOR THEIR

POSSIBLE ENTRY AS A FULL MEMBER AT SOME FUTURE DATE.
THERE WOULD NO OBJECTION TO HONG KONG BECOMING AN
ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF TELECOMMUNITY WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS.
END TEXT.

3. HONG KONG DELEGATE THEN SPENT REST OF MORNING WITH-
DRAWING HIS DRAFT AMENDMENTS EARLIER DESIGNED TO SECURE
HONG KONG FULL MEMBERSHIP.

4. HUSAIN PRIVATELY EXPLAINED LATER THAT PRC FIRST
SECRETARY CALLED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARAMIS AND ITU SEC
GEN MILI ASIDE AT FEB 17 RECEPTION AND MADE DECLARATION
PARA 2 ABOVE. WHEN MARAMIS ASKED WHEN PRC WOULD BE SENDING
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO ESCAP, PRC OFFICER MERELY
SAID EMBASSY "WAS NOT YET EQUIPPED."

5. UK REP ADMITTED PRC STATEMENT "KICKED STOOL OUT FROM
UNDER UK/HK POSITION." HE WONDERED ALOUD WHO SUGGESTED THIS
ACTION TO PRC AS HE GAZED AT BEAMING INDIAN DELEGATION.

6. SOVIET DELEGATION EXPRESSED UNEASINESS AT THIS
INTERESTING PRC NAMEUVER AND HOPED IT WOULD NOT BECOME A
HABIT TO OPERATE ASIAN FASHION "BEHIND THE SCREEN." WE
EXPRESSED SIMILAR HOPES.

7. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST INDICATION OF PRC INTEREST IN
TELECOMMUNITY. ITU SEC GEN SAID THAT PRC REGULARLY SENDS
16-MAN DELEGATION TO ITU MEETINGS. WITH ARTICLE III
ISSUE OUT OF WAY, AGREEMENT ON REST OF TELECOMMUNITY
CONSTITUTION SHOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY WEEKEND.
WHITEHOUSE

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